

EXHIBIT A

US Patent No. 6,963,859
Claims
<p>1. A rendering system adapted for use in a distributed system for managing use of content, said rendering system being operative to rendering content in accordance with usage rights associated with the content, said rendering system comprising:</p> <p>a rendering device configured to render the content; and</p> <p>a distributed repository coupled to said rendering device and including a requester mode of operation and server mode of operation,</p> <p>wherein the server mode of operation is operative to enforce usage rights associated with the content and permit the rendering device to render the content in accordance with a manner of use specified by the usage rights,</p> <p>the requester mode of operation is operative to request access to content from another distributed repository, and</p> <p>said distributed repository is operative to receive a request to render the content and permit the content to be rendered only if a manner of use specified in the request corresponds to a manner of use specified in the usage rights.</p>
<p>13. A rendering system as recited in claim 1, wherein said rendering device comprises a video system.</p>
<p>15. A rendering system as recited in claim 1 wherein said rendering device comprises a computer system and said repository comprises software executed on the computer system.</p>
<p>19. A rendering system as recited in claim 1, wherein the manner of use is a manner of displaying.</p>
<p>20. A rendering system as recited in claim 1, wherein the manner of use is a manner of playing.</p>
<p>21. A rendering system as recited in claim 1, wherein the rendering device and the repository are integrated into a secure system having a secure boundary.</p>
<p>24. A rendering system as recited in claim 1, further comprising means for communicating with a master repository for obtaining an identification certificate for the repository.</p>
<p>58. A computer readable medium including one or more computer readable instructions embedded therein for use in a distributed system for managing use of content, and operative to render content in accordance with usage rights associated with the content, said computer readable instructions configured to cause one or more computer processors to perform the steps of:</p> <p>configuring a rendering device to render the content;</p> <p>configuring a distributed repository coupled to said rendering device to include a requester mode of operation and server mode of operation;</p> <p>enforcing usage rights associated with the content and permitting the rendering device to render the content in accordance with a manner of use specified by the usage rights, when in the server mode of operation;</p> <p>requesting access to content from another distributed repository, when in the requester mode of operation; and</p> <p>receiving by said distributed repository a request to render the content and permitting the content to be rendered only if a manner of use specified in the request corresponds to a manner of use specified in the usage rights.</p>
<p>69. A computer readable medium as recited in claim 58, wherein said rendering device</p>

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	comprises a video system.
71.	A computer readable medium as recited in claim 58, wherein said rendering device comprises a computer system and said repository comprises software executed on the computer system.
75.	A computer readable medium as recited in claim 58, wherein the manner of use is a manner of displaying.
76.	A computer readable medium as recited in claim 58, wherein the manner of use is a manner of playing.
81.	A computer readable medium as recited in claim 58, wherein said computer readable instructions are configured to cause the one or more computer processors to perform the step of communicating with a master repository for obtaining an identification certificate for the repository .

US Patent No. 7,523,072

Claims

1. A method for securely **rendering digital documents**, comprising:
 retrieving, by a **document platform**, a **digital document** and at least one usage right associated with the **digital document** from a document **repository**,
 the at least one usage right specifying a **manner of use** indicating the manner in which the **digital document** can be **rendered**;
 storing the **digital document** and the at least one usage right in separate files in the **document platform**;
 determining, by the **document platform**, whether the **digital document** may be **rendered** based on the at least one usage right; and
 if the at least one usage right allows the **digital document** to be **rendered** on the document platform, **rendering the digital document by the document platform**.
8. The method as recited in claim 1, wherein at least one part of the **digital document** and the at least one usage right are stored on a same device.
10. A method for securely **rendering digital documents**, comprising:
 storing a **digital document** and at least one usage right in separate files in a document **repository**,
 wherein the at least one usage right is associated with the **digital document**;
 receiving a request from a **document platform** for access to the **digital document**;
determining, by the document platform, whether the request may be granted based on the at least one usage right, the determining step including authenticating the **document platform** and determining whether the at least one usage right includes a **manner of use** that allows transfer of the **digital document** to the **document platform**;
 if the at least one usage right allows the transfer of the **digital document** to the **document platform**, transferring the **digital document** and the at least one usage right associated with the **digital document** to the **document platform**;
 storing the **digital document** and the at least one usage right in the **document platform**, wherein the at least one usage right is stored in a separate file from the **digital document**; and
rendering the digital document by the document platform.
16. The method as recited in claim 10, wherein at least one part of the **digital document** and the at least one usage right are stored on a same device.

US Patent No. 7,225,160
Claims
<p>1. A computer readable medium having embedded thereon a digital work adapted to be distributed within a system for controlling use of digital works, said digital work comprising: a digital content portion that is renderable by a rendering device;</p> <p>a usage rights portion associated with said digital content portion and comprising one or more computer readable instructions configured to permit or prohibit said rendering device to render said digital content portion, said usage rights portion being expressed as statements from a usage rights language having a grammar defining a valid sequence of symbols, and specifying a manner of use relating to one or more purposes for which the digital work can be used by an authorized party; and</p> <p>a description structure comprising a plurality of description blocks, each of said description blocks comprising address information for at least one part of said digital work, and a usage rights part for associating one or more usage rights portions.</p>
<p>2. The digital work as recited in claim 1, wherein said usage rights portion further specifies status information indicating the status of the digital work.</p>
<p>3. The digital work as recited in claim 1, wherein said usage rights portion further specifies a usage fee associated with exercise of the manner of use, said usage fee comprising a fee type and fee parameters.</p>
<p>6. The digital work as recited in claim 3 wherein said fee type is a scheduled fee and said fee parameters comprise time units and fee units.</p>
<p>9. The digital work as recited in claim 1 wherein said digital content portion and said usage rights portion are stored on the same physical device.</p>
<p>10. The digital work as recited in claim 1, wherein said digital content portion and said usage rights portion are stored on different physical devices.</p>

US Patent No. 7,774,280
Claims
<p>1. A computer-implemented method for transferring rights adapted to be associated with items from a rights supplier to a rights consumer, the method comprising: obtaining a set of rights associated with an item, the set of rights including a meta-right specifying a right that can be created when the meta-right is exercised, wherein the meta-right is provided in digital form and is enforceable by a repository; determining, by a repository, whether the rights consumer is entitled to the right specified by the meta-right; and exercising the meta-right to create the right specified by the meta-right if the rights consumer is entitled to the right specified by the meta-right, wherein the created right includes at least one state variable based on the set of rights and used for determining a state of the created right.</p>
<p>5. The method of claim 1, wherein the state variable is updated upon exercise of a right associated with the state variable.</p>
<p>11. The method of claim 1, further comprising generating a license including the created right, if the rights consumer is entitled to the right specified by the meta-right.</p>
<p>12. A system for transferring rights adapted to be associated with items from a rights supplier to a rights consumer, the system comprising: means for obtaining a set of rights associated with an item, the set of rights including a meta-right specifying a right that can be created when the meta-right is exercised, wherein the meta-right is provided in digital form and is enforceable by a repository; means for determining whether the rights consumer is entitled to the right specified by the meta-right; and means for exercising the meta-right to create the right specified by the meta-right if the rights consumer is entitled to the right specified by the meta-right, wherein the created right includes at least one state variable based on the set of rights and used for determining a state of the created right.</p>
<p>22. The system of claim 12, further comprising means for generating a license including the created right, if the rights consumer is entitled to the right specified by the meta-right.</p>

US Patent No. 8,001,053
Claims
<p>1. A method for sharing rights adapted to be associated with an item, the method comprising: specifying, in a first license, using a processor, at least one usage right and at least one meta-right for the item, wherein the usage right and the meta-right include at least one right that is shared among one or more users or devices; defining, via the at least one usage right, using a processor, a manner of use selected from a plurality of permitted manners of use for the item; defining, via the at least one meta-right, using a processor, a manner of rights creation for the item, wherein said at least one meta-right is enforceable by a repository and allows said one or more users or devices to create new rights; associating, using a processor, at least one state variable with the at least one right in the first license, wherein the at least one state variable identifies a location where a state of rights is tracked; generating, in a second license, using a processor, one or more rights based on the meta-right in the first license, wherein the one or more rights in the second license includes at least one right that is shared among one or more users or devices; and associating at least one state variable with the at least one right that is shared in the second license, wherein the at least one state variable that is associated with the second license is based on the at least one state variable that is associated with the first license.</p>
<p>3. The method of claim 1, wherein the state variable in the first or second license shares a state thereof for content usage or rights derivation with other generated usage rights and meta-rights.</p>
<p>4. The method of claim 1, wherein the state variable in the first or second license inherits a remaining state for content usage or rights derivation from other generated usage rights and meta-rights.</p>
<p>5. The method of claim 1, wherein the state variable in the first or second license is updated upon exercise of a right associated with the state variable.</p>
<p>15. A system for sharing rights adapted to be associated with an item, the system comprising: a processor for specifying in a first license at least one usage right and at least one meta-right for the item, wherein the usage right and the meta-right include at least one right that is shared among one or more users or devices; a processor for defining, via the at least one usage right, a manner of use selected from a plurality of permitted manners of use for the item; a processor for defining, via the at least one meta-right, a manner of rights creation for the item, wherein said at least one meta-right is enforceable by a repository and allows said one or more users or devices to create new rights; a processor for associating at least one state variable with the at least one right in the first license, wherein the at least one state variable identifies a location where a state of rights is tracked; a processor for generating in a second license one or more rights based on the meta-right in the first license, wherein the one or more rights in the second license includes at least one right that is shared among one or more users or devices; and a processor for associating at least one state variable with the at least one right that is shared in the second license, wherein the at least one state variable that is associated with the second</p>

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license is based on the at least one state variable that is associated with the first license .	
23. The system of claim 15, wherein the state variable in the second license is transferred from the at least one right in the first license and is associated with the right that is shared in the second license .	

US Patent No. 7,269,576
Claims
<p>1. An apparatus for rendering digital content in accordance with rights that are enforced by the apparatus, said apparatus comprising:</p> <p>a rendering engine configured to render digital content;</p> <p>a storage for storing the digital content;</p> <p>means for requesting use of the digital content stored in the storage; and</p> <p>a repository coupled to the rendering engine, wherein the repository includes:</p> <p>means for processing a request from the means for requesting,</p> <p>means for checking whether the request is for a permitted rendering of the digital content in accordance with rights specified in the apparatus,</p> <p>means for processing the request to make the digital content available to the rendering engine for rendering when the request is for a permitted rendering of the digital; and</p> <p>means for authorizing the repository for making the digital content available for rendering, wherein the digital content can be made available for rendering only by an authorized repository, the repository comprising:</p> <p>means for making a request [request] for an authorization object [object] required to be included within the repository for the apparatus to render the digital content; and</p> <p>means for receiving the authorization object when it is determined that the request should be granted.</p>
<p>4. The apparatus as recited in claim 1, further comprising means for requesting a transfer of the digital content from an external memory to the storage.</p>
<p>7. The apparatus as recited in claim 1, wherein the digital content is video content.</p>
<p>15. The apparatus as recited in claim 1, wherein the rights are embodied in software instructions which implement the use privileges for the rights.</p>
<p>18. A method for controlling rendering of digital content on an apparatus having a rendering engine configured to render digital content and a storage for storing the digital content, said method comprising:</p> <p>specifying rights within said apparatus for digital content stored in said storage,</p> <p>said rights specifying how digital content can be rendered;</p> <p>storing digital content in said storage;</p> <p>receiving a request for rendering of said digital content stored in the storage;</p> <p>checking whether said request is for a permitted rendering of said digital content in accordance with said rights specified within said apparatus;</p> <p>processing the request to make said digital content available to the rendering engine for rendering when said request is for a permitted rendering of said digital content;</p> <p>authorizing a repository for making the digital content available for rendering, wherein the digital content can be made available for rendering only by an authorized repository, the repository performing the steps of:</p> <p>making a request for an authorization object required [required] to be included within the repository for rendering of the digital content; and</p> <p>receiving the authorization object when it is determined that the request should be granted.</p>
<p>21. The method as recited in claim 18, further comprising requesting a transfer of the digital content from an external memory to the storage.</p>
<p>24. The method as recited in claim 18, wherein the digital content is video content.</p>

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32.	The method as recited in claim 18, wherein the rights are embodied in software instructions which implement the use privileges for the rights.
34.	The method as recited in claim 18, further comprising: requesting receipt of digital content stored externally; and receiving the digital content if it is permitted to receive the digital content .

US Patent No. 8,370,956
Claims
<p>1. A computer-implemented method of rendering digital content by at least one recipient computing device in accordance with usage rights information, the method comprising: receiving the digital content by the at least one recipient computing device from at least one sending computing device only if the at least one recipient computing device has been determined to be trusted to receive the digital content from the at least one sending computing device;</p> <p>receiving, by the at least one recipient computing device, a request to render the digital content;</p> <p>determining, based on the usage rights information, whether the digital content may be rendered by the at least one recipient computing device; and</p> <p>rendering the digital content, by the at least one recipient computing device, only if it is determined that the content may be rendered by the at least one recipient computing device.</p>
<p>4. The method of claim 1, wherein the receiving the digital content comprises: requesting an authorization object for the at least one recipient computing device to make the digital content available for use, the authorization object being required to receive the digital content and to use the digital content; and</p> <p>receiving the authorization object if it is determined that the request for the authorization object should be granted.</p>
<p>5. The method of claim 1, wherein the receiving the digital content comprises: generating a registration message, the registration message including an identification certificate of the recipient computing device and a random registration identifier, the identification certificate being certified by a master device;</p> <p>exchanging messages including at least one session key with at least one provider computing device, the session key to be used in communications during a session; and</p> <p>conducting a secure transaction using the session key, wherein the secure transaction includes receiving the digital content.</p>
<p>6. The method of claim 5, further comprising:</p> <p>receiving a message to test the authenticity of the at least one recipient computing device, the generated message including a nonce; and</p> <p>processing the generated message to indicate authenticity.</p>
<p>7. A recipient apparatus for rendering digital content in accordance with usage rights information, the recipient apparatus comprising:</p> <p>one or more processors; and</p> <p>one or more memories operatively coupled to at least one of the one or more processors and having instructions stored thereon that, when executed by at least one of the one or more processors, cause at least one of the one or more processors to:</p> <p>enable the receipt of the digital content by the recipient apparatus from at least one sending computing device only if the recipient apparatus has been determined to be trusted to receive the digital content from the at least one sending computing device;</p> <p>receive a request to render the digital content;</p> <p>determine, based on the usage rights information, whether the digital content may be rendered by the recipient apparatus; and</p> <p>render the digital content only if it is determined that the content may be rendered by the recipient apparatus.</p>

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<p>10. The recipient apparatus of claim 7, wherein enabling the receipt of the digital content comprises: requesting an authorization object for the recipient apparatus to make the digital content available for use, the authorization object being required to receive the digital content and to use the digital content; and receiving the authorization object if it is determined that the request for the authorization object should be granted.</p>
<p>11. The recipient apparatus of claim 7, wherein enabling the receipt of the digital content comprises: generating a registration message, the registration message including an identification certificate of the recipient apparatus and a random registration identifier, the identification certificate being certified by a master device; exchanging messages including at least one session key with at least one provider computing device, the session key to be used in communications during a session; and conducting a secure transaction using the session key, wherein the secure transaction includes receiving the digital content.</p>
<p>12. The recipient apparatus of claim 11, wherein at least one of the one or more memories has further instructions stored thereon that, when executed by at least one of the one or more processors, cause at least one of the one or more processors to: receive a message to test the authenticity of the recipient apparatus, the generated message including a nonce; and process the generated message to indicate authenticity.</p>
<p>13. At least one non-transitory computer-readable medium storing computer-readable instructions that, when executed by at least one recipient computing device, cause the at least one recipient computing device to: receive the digital content from at least one sending computing device only if the at least one recipient computing device has been determined to be trusted to receive the digital content from the at least one sending computing device; receive a request to render the digital content; determine, based on the usage rights information, whether the digital content may be rendered by the at least one recipient computing device; and render the digital content only if it is determined that the content may be rendered by the at least one recipient computing device.</p>
<p>16. The at least one non-transitory computer-readable medium of claim 13, wherein receiving the digital content comprises: requesting an authorization object for the at least one recipient computing device to make the digital content available for use, the authorization object being required to receive the digital content and to use the digital content; and receiving the authorization object if it is determined that the request for the authorization object should be granted.</p>
<p>17. The at least one non-transitory computer-readable medium of claim 13, wherein receiving the digital content comprises: generating a registration message, the registration message including an identification certificate of the recipient computing device and a random registration identifier, the</p>

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<p>identification certificate being certified by a master device; exchanging messages including at least one session key with at least one provider computing device, the session key to be used in communications during a session; and conducting a secure transaction using the session key, wherein the secure transaction includes receiving the digital content.</p>
<p>18. The at least one non-transitory computer-readable medium of claim 17, further storing computer-readable instructions that, when executed by at least one recipient computing device, cause the at least one recipient computing device to: receive a message to test the authenticity of the at least one recipient computing device, the generated message including a nonce; and process the generated message to indicate authenticity.</p>

US Patent No. 8,393,007
Claims
<p>1. A computer-implemented method of distributing digital content to at least one recipient computing device to be rendered by the at least one recipient computing device in accordance with usage rights information, the method comprising:</p> <p>determining, by at least one sending computing device, if the at least one recipient computing device is trusted to receive the digital content from the at least one sending computing device;</p> <p>sending the digital content, by the at least one sending computing device, to the at least one recipient computing device only if the at least one recipient computing device has been determined to be trusted to receive the digital content from the at least one sending computing device; and</p> <p>sending usage rights information indicating how the digital content may be rendered by the at least one recipient computing device, the usage rights information being enforceable by the at least one recipient computing device.</p>
<p>3. The method of claim 1, wherein the determination of trust comprises:</p> <p>receiving a request from at least one recipient computing device for an authorization object required to render the digital content; and</p> <p>transmitting the authorization object to the at least one recipient computing device when it is determined that the request should be granted.</p>
<p>4. The method of claim 1, wherein the determination of trust comprises:</p> <p>receiving a registration message from the at least one recipient device, the registration message including an identification certificate of the recipient computing device and a random registration identifier, the identification certificate being certified by a master device;</p> <p>validating the authenticity of the at least one recipient device;</p> <p>exchanging messages including at least one session key with the at least one recipient device, the session key to be used in communications; and</p> <p>conducting a secure transaction using the session key, wherein the secure transaction includes sending the digital content to the at least one recipient device.</p>
<p>5. The method of claim 1, wherein the validating comprises:</p> <p>verifying the identification certificate of the at least one recipient device;</p> <p>generating a message to test the authenticity of the at least one recipient device, the generated message including a nonce;</p> <p>sending the generated message to the at least one recipient device; and</p> <p>verifying if the at least one recipient device correctly processed the generated message.</p>
<p>6. A sending apparatus for distributing digital content to at least one recipient computing device to be rendered by the at least one recipient computing device in accordance with usage rights information, the sending apparatus comprising:</p> <p>one or more processors; and</p> <p>one or more memories operatively coupled to at least one of the one or more processors and having instructions stored thereon that, when executed by at least one of the one or more processors, cause at least one of the one or more processors to:</p> <p>determine if the at least one recipient computing device is trusted to receive the digital content from the sending apparatus;</p> <p>send the digital content, by the sending apparatus, to the at least one recipient computing device only if the at least one recipient computing device has been determined to be trusted to receive</p>

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<p>the digital content from the sending apparatus; and send usage rights information indicating how the digital content may be rendered by the at least one recipient computing device, the usage rights information being enforceable by the at least on recipient computing device.</p>
<p>8. The apparatus of claim 6, wherein the determination of trust comprises: receiving a request from at least one recipient computing device for an authorization object required to render the digital content; and transmitting the authorization object to the at least one recipient computing device when it is determined that the request should be granted.</p>
<p>9. The apparatus of claim 6, wherein the determination of trust comprises: receiving a registration message from the at least one recipient device, the registration message including an identification certificate of the recipient computing device and a random registration identifier, the identification certificate being certified by a master device; validating the authenticity of the at least one recipient device; exchanging messages including at least one session key with the at least one recipient device, the session key to be used in communications; and conducting a secure transaction using the session key, wherein the secure transaction includes sending the digital content to the at least one recipient device.</p>
<p>10. The apparatus of claim 9, wherein the validating comprises: verifying the identification certificate of the at least one recipient device; generating a message to test the authenticity of the at least one recipient device, the generated message including a nonce; sending the generated message to the at least one recipient device; and verifying if the at least one recipient device correctly processed the generated message.</p>
<p>11. At least one non-transitory computer-readable medium storing computer-readable instructions that, when executed by at least one sending computing device, cause the at least one sending computing device to: determine if the at least one recipient computing device is trusted to receive the digital content from the at least one sending computing device; send the digital content, by the at least one sending computing device, to the at least one recipient computing device only if the at least one recipient computing device has been determined to be trusted to receive the digital content from the at least one sending computing device; and send usage rights information indicating how the digital content may be rendered by the at least one recipient computing device, the usage rights information being enforceable by the at least on recipient computing device.</p>
<p>13. The at least one non-transitory computer-readable medium of claim 11, wherein the determination of trust comprises: receiving a request from at least one recipient computing device for an authorization object required to render the digital content; and transmitting the authorization object to the at least one recipient computing device when it is determined that the request should be granted.</p>
<p>14. The at least one non-transitory computer-readable medium of claim 11, wherein the determination of trust comprises:</p>

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<p>receiving a registration message from the at least one recipient device, the registration message including an identification certificate of the recipient computing device and a random registration identifier, the identification certificate being certified by a master device; validating the authenticity of the at least one recipient device; exchanging messages including at least one session key with the at least one recipient device, the session key to be used in communications; and conducting a secure transaction using the session key, wherein the secure transaction includes sending the digital content to the at least one recipient device.</p>

<p>15. The at least one non-transitory computer-readable medium of claim 14, wherein the validating comprises: verifying the identification certificate of the at least one recipient device; generating a message to test the authenticity of the at least one recipient device, the generated message including a nonce; sending the generated message to the at least one recipient device; and verifying if the at least one recipient device correctly processed the generated message.</p>
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US Patent No. 8,583,556**Claims**

1. A method implemented by one or more computing devices for providing a digital asset for distribution, the method comprising:
 storing, by at least one of the one or more computing devices, the digital asset, the digital asset including digital content;
 associating, by at least one of the one or more computing devices, an asset identifier with the digital asset to thereby generate a first **instance** of the digital asset, the asset identifier identifying the digital asset;
 receiving from a user, by at least one of the one or more computing devices, an acceptance of terms of use of digital assets;
 providing, by at least one of the one or more computing devices, a list of one or more digital assets to the user, the list including the digital asset;
 receiving from the user, by at least one of the one or more computing devices, a request for the digital asset;
 in response to the request for the digital asset, creating, by at least one of the one or more computing devices, a second **instance** of the digital asset for transfer to the user device, the second **instance** of the digital asset including content and at least one **other portion**, and embedding in the at least one **other portion** of the second **instance** of the digital asset at least a customer identification associated with the user and the asset identifier, wherein other instances of the digital asset have customer identifications embedded therein and the customer identifications are used to track instances of the digital asset;
detecting, by at least one of the one or more computing devices, a transfer of the second **instance** of the digital asset to the user based at least in part on the customer identification;
 debiting an account of the user related to the transfer of the second **instance** of the digital media asset to the user; and
 updating, by at least one of the one or more computing devices, a transaction database to reflect a transfer of the second **instance** of the digital media asset to the user.
8. The method of claim 1, wherein distributions of said digital asset **over said network between user devices** are not preconditioned on securing authorization for individual copies of said digital asset.
9. The method of claim 1 further comprising updating a transaction database to indicate identities of parties involved in a transfer of said digital asset, and a timestamp for the transfer.
11. The method of claim 1 wherein said digital content includes audio and/or video data.
12. A computer system for providing a digital asset for distribution, the system comprising:
 one or more processors; and
 one or more memories operatively coupled to at least one of the one or more processors and having instructions stored therein that, when executed by at least one of the one or more processors, cause at least one of the one or more processors to:
 store the digital asset, the digital asset including digital content;
 associate an asset identifier with the digital asset to thereby generate a first **instance** of the digital asset, the asset identifier identifying the digital asset;
 receive from a user an acceptance of terms of use of digital assets;
 provide a list of one or more digital assets to a user, the list including the digital asset;
 receive from the user a request for the digital asset;

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<p>in response to the request for the digital asset, create a second instance of the digital asset for transfer to a user device, the second instance of the digital asset including digital content and at least one other portion, and embedding in the at least one other portion of the second instance of the digital asset at least a customer identification associated with the user and the asset identifier, wherein other instances of the digital asset have customer identifications embedded therein and the customer identifications are used to track instances of the digital asset;</p>
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<p>detect a transfer of the second instance of the digital content to the user based at least in part on the customer identification;</p>
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<p>debit an account of the user related to the transfer of the second instance of the digital media asset to the user; and</p>

<p>update a transaction database to reflect a transfer of the second instance of the digital media asset to the user.</p>
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<p>19. The system of claim 12, wherein distributions of said digital asset over said network between user devices are not preconditioned on securing authorization for individual copies of said digital asset.</p>
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<p>20. The system of claim 12 wherein the instructions further cause at least one of the one or more processors to update said transaction database to indicate identities of parties involved in a transfer of said digital asset, and a timestamp for the transfer.</p>

<p>22. The system of claim 12 wherein said digital content includes audio and/or video data.</p>
